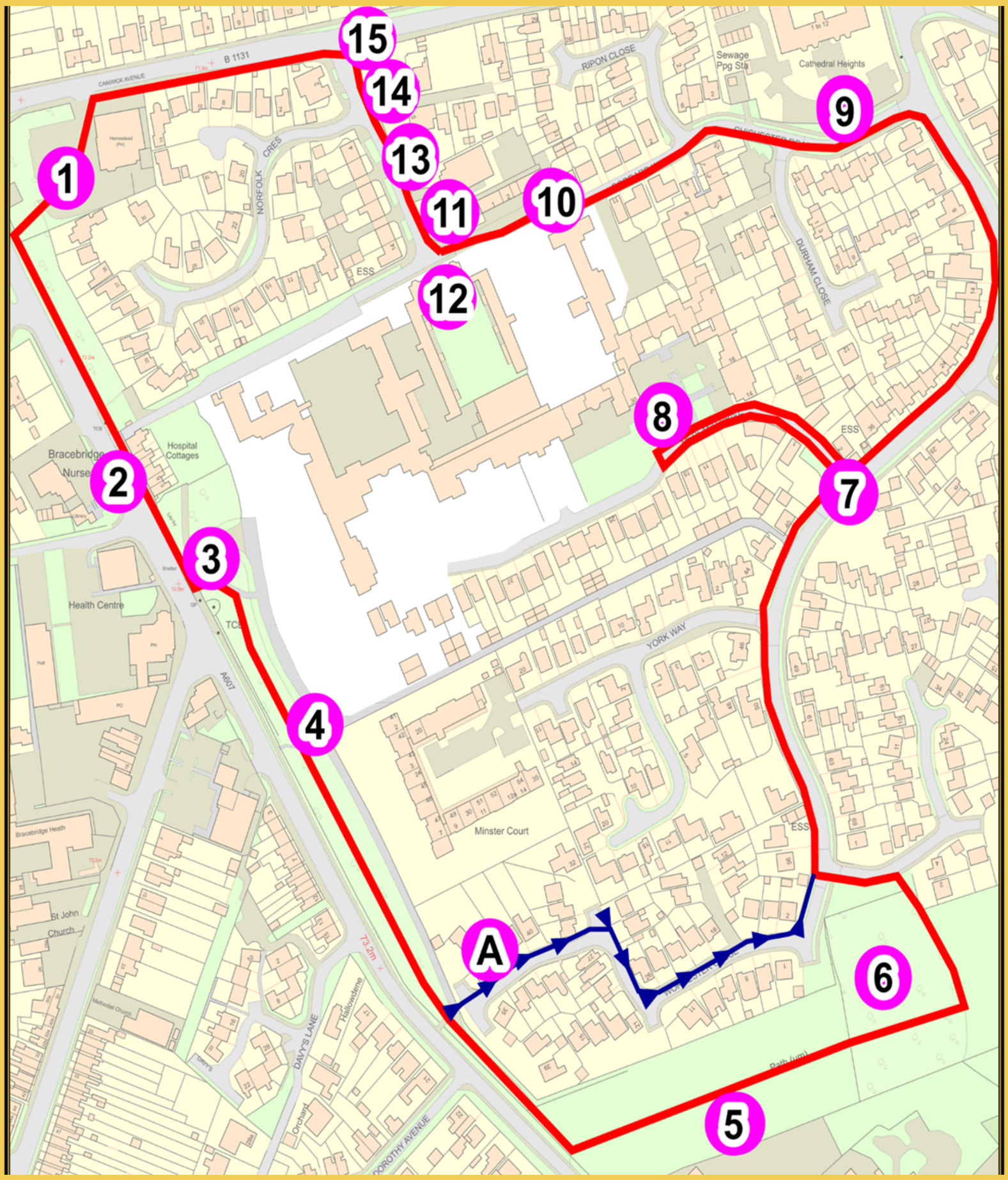
BRACEBRIDGE HEATH
HERITAGE TRAIL

BRACEBRIDGE HEATH
PARISH COUNCIL

ROUTE 1



HISTORY. COMMUNITY. IDENTITY

DISTANCE
2.7km 1.75 miles

ALLOW 1 - 1.5 hours

Circular route

Starting and finishing at The Homestead (Point 1)

Many of the buildings visited are private dwellings. Please respect the privacy of local residents

1 The Homestead



Built around 1900 as a home for the Hospital Director. It is built of limestone with ashlar dressing and a hipped slate roof. Notice the chamfered bands of stone running between the ground floor and upper floor windows and the stone detail on the eaves. The northern end of the building is lower and slightly less detailed; these were the servants' quarters. The building was originally surrounded by private gardens which were tended by patients as part of their therapy.

Leave the car park via the footpath that leads to London Road. Turn south and walk along London Road to the next stop.

2 Hospital Cottages

Originally known as Asylum Cottages, they were built before 1889 for the hospital workers. Notice they don't have front gardens which was the norm at that time. The houses look small but this is deceptive as they extend a reasonable distance behind the frontage. Each house has a small back yard and originally had outside toilets. The wall at the northern end of the terrace is a later addition.



Keep walking past the cottages until you reach the war memorial on the same road.

3 War Memorial

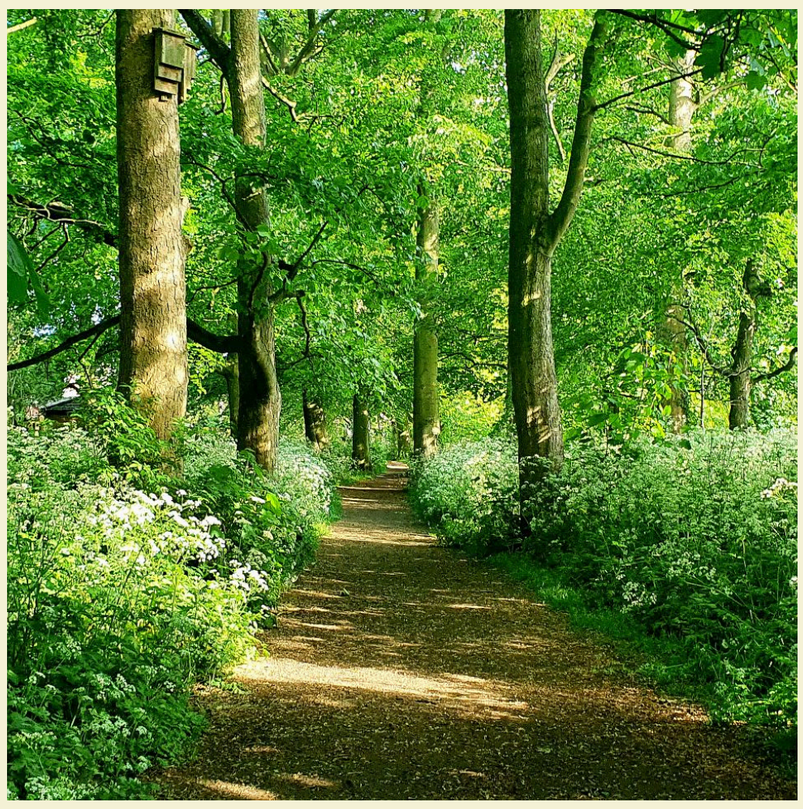


Built of Clipsham stone, the War Memorial was unveiled in 1921. On top of the three tier base is a three metre high octagonal shaft with a Gothic cross on top. The names of those who died in the two World Wars are recorded on inset slate plates around the base. It was designed by Mr H G Gamble of Lincoln.

The War Memorial was granted Grade II listing in November 2022. Details about the fallen can be seen in a booklet within the local library at The Heath located on Red Hall Lane.

Walk down the path beside the War Memorial and continue south through the Woodland Walk parallel to the road.

4 Woodland Walk



The Woodland Walk was planted in 1850 as a boundary woodland to the hospital and provide a visual barrier between the road and the hospital airing grounds (exercise areas). Originally all the trees were beech but over the years other species have appeared either by self-setting or deliberately as replacement trees. If you are quiet you may see a variety of wildlife as you move through this area.
(This path can be muddy, but there is a parallel concrete path on the east side of the trees)

Continue walking south along the woodland walk until you reach the main entrance to the cemetery (an arched entrance in the stone wall). Turn east and follow the footpath towards The Hump.

5 Hospital Cemetery and The Hump

Please treat this consecreted burial ground with respect. The cemetery was opened in 1855 and extended twice. The last burial was in November 1957. There are 2082 grave plots in this cemetery and nearly 4000 burials. Even the footpath to The Hump, which was laid after the hospital closed, is positioned over burial plots. See if you can detect the position of the demolished mortuary chapel. (Clue: it is near some yew trees).



The cemetery is bounded on the west and south sides by a high limestone wall. It was intended that a limestone wall would be built all the way round the hospital but this proved too expensive. A book containing the names of those buried in this cemetery can be found in the library and St John the Evangelist Church. The southern edge of the cemetery is left uncut to help wildlife thrive.

6 Continue to The Hump

Beneath The Hump is an old limestone quarry and lime kiln. The Hump was formed as the quarry was filled in with hospital rubbish and covered in earth. It is an area that will be left wild and not disturbed

Exit via The Hump onto Worcester Close and walk northward to Lichfield Road. Continue along Lichfield Road until you get to Medland Drive.

Walk along Medland Drive.



7 Medland Drive



As you enter Medland Drive you will see two new large stone houses. They act as a new gateway to the St John's Hospital buildings and the airing grounds beyond. Apart from these two houses the majority of the new dwellings are built of brick with the occasional stone features. This was deliberate, so as not to detract from the main hospital building.

8 Airing Courts



The original airing courts have been lost with the redevelopment of the hospital building. The new road and parking area shows how the original airing courts were laid out. The courts were used by patients as a means of exercise within a pleasant garden area.

Being outside and exercising was considered important at this hospital. Men and women had their own airing courts.

Walk back to Lichfield Road and walk northwards to Chichester Road. Follow this road towards Goddard Way.

9 Cathedral Heights

Built in the 1930s in a neo-Georgian style, this three-storey rectangular building was built around a central open square. The stone-coloured brick complements the main hospital building and has several window bays. It was originally used as nurses accommodation. Today it has been converted into flats with new garages to the west of the building. When it was converted a large communal garden was added with a new wall along its boundary.



Continue walking along Chichester Road to the junction with Goddard Way and Ripon Close. Walk along Goddard Way, past the renovated St John's hospital building (now individual terraced houses) and the new infill detached houses of red brick and stone. The stone house on the right (north side)of Goddard Way helps form an entrance to this part of the St John's Hospital Estate.

10 St John's Craft Workshops



These limestone workshops are what is left of a double row of hospital workshops that enclosed an open area between them.

This remaining block is the south block. At its height the hospital had a fully functioning mixed farm with assiciated trades, worked by the patients. The food produced was used in the hospital kitchens.

Today the building is owned by North Kesteven District Council and rooms are let out as craft workshops. Stop and explore if the workshops are open.

11 The Chapel



This Grade II limestone church was built for patients and staff to worship in. Built before 1887 of limstone blocks with ashlar dressing. It has coped gables and a slate roof.

Notice the external bell tower to call people to services or work. The chapel never had any stained glass windows. Today the chapel accommodates ten flats and velux windows in the roof are modern additions. The grounds around the chapel were tended by patients and were never used for burials

12 Barnard House



This Grade II listed building was the main building for St John's Hospital. Originally called 'Lincolnshire County Lunatic Asylum', it is built in the Italianate style and dates from 1849. Notice the blue tint in the limestone blocks. This is 'blue limestone' from local quarries. The limestone ashlars and quoins are Mansfield limestone. The roof is slate and hipped.

This building has been converted into flats and was renamed in honour of Dr. Christian Barnard.

Now walk down Caistor Drive northwards towards Canwick Avenue

13

Norfolk House



Norfolk House is now a private home set within a large garden but was originally built around 1901 as hospital staff accommodation. This Grade II limestone building has a bay front and stone porch to the side.

Notice the raised quoins (corner stones), chamfered banding below the windows and the decorations below the eaves. The top of the windows are slightly arched and the roof is slate.

14

Crondall House



This Grade II listed square limestone house is now a private home standing within large gardens. It was originally built as hospital staff accommodation.

Notice the raised quions and the chamfered banding below the windows.

There are also decorations in stone around the eaves and on top of the chimney stacks. The roof is hipped and has slate tiles.

15 Lodge



The Lodge is a Grade II listed limestone bungalow situated on the eastern side of the main entrance to St John's Hospital (Caistor Drive). Notice the slate roof and tall ashlar limestone chimneys.

The windows and doors are arched at the top and the limestone walls are chamfered around the eaves. The garden is bounded on the north side by a high limestone wall.

At the Lodge turn left (west) back to The Homestead and refreshments

Enjoy finding out about the history of the village?

Find out more about Bracebridge Heath Heritage on our website. Scan the QR code or visit our website directly

https://bracebridge-heath.parish.lincolnshire.gov.uk/heritage

The heritage trails and other heritage information is available to view in St John's Church (on Grantham Road). The church is open all day on Wednesdays and Fridays and there is a coffee morning on the first Saturday of the month where Sue Manders would be happy to discuss any local history information.

With thanks to Sue Manders for producing the heritage information and trails.